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What Is Philosophy

By Aniruddha Jha

The above question has been answered by different philosophers in various ways in different ages. But most of them agree that philosophy in the widest sense should indicate one's attitude towards the different problems which face the individual and the society. There are many, specially the idealists, who maintain that philosophy is concerned with the investigation of the nature of Reality apart from the appearance which form the subject matter of the different sciences. According to them the sciences study the phenomena and the noumenon is a closed thing for the scientists which can be opened by the philosophers alone. The presence of this attitude we find down to modern times. Zeno by means of his subtle and illusive dialectic pointed out that change and motion are illusions. In our own times we find Bradley, the greatest modern idealistic philosopher, trying to prove that the world of our experience is illusory. When we turn to the Indian philosophy we find the greatest of all Indian systems, the Advait Vedanta system, declaring in unequivocal terms that the world of experience is illusory or Maya. Then there are other schools of philosophy which consider the world of experience to be the only reality. In short, the idealists, the materialists, the realists of many other -ists have their own attitudes towards the world and the society and these attitudes constitute their philosophy. Now the question that naturally agitates the mind of a student of philosophy is why these different and conflicting attitudes? Can there be a solution by a chronological study? Do the different

attitudes speak of the different ages or times in which they flourished? But one and the same age at times gives us some Philosophers who are idealists and some who are materialists. How is then this problem to be solved? A sociological study of philosophy comes to our rescue. Philosophy is a social phenomenon and so it must be studied in its proper social context. If it is divested of its social context it becomes purely speculative and abstract and loses all contact with life which has inspired it. Philosophy arises as all other branches of knowledge arise for the solution of human problems both at the practical and theoretical levels. So Philosophy should not be taken, as many do take it, to be the development of ideas alone apart from the life and existence which form the very basis of our ideas. Most of the histories of philosophy has been written to demonstrate the development of ideas simply and so naturally they have become abstruse and abstract, meant for the mental exercise of a few and totally useless for the understanding and solution of human problems. Philosophical attitude can be understood and made useful only when it is related to its social context. Human beings begin thinking about the solution when they find difficulties in solving their most elementary economic needs. So existence is prior to thought or ideas. First human beings came to exist and then they were faced with the problems of existence. No philosophy can arise in planets where there is no life. So philosophy can arise only where there are human beings to think

about the problems which face their existence.

Keeping in view this social origin of philosophy Marx has rightly pointed out that the way in which people produce and the necessary social relation obtaining among them for carrying out the productive activities form the basis of all branches of knowledge. The superstructure of arts, science, religion and philosophy is reared upon the foundation of economic activities. So if there are different classes having different class interests engaged in the productive activities, they are bound to develop such philosophy which will safeguard their own interests and delude others, their opponents, into believing that very philosophy. In the social development there comes a time when the interests of the different classes become opposed to each other and in these classes there is always one class which wields the economic powers, being the possessor of the means of production. Now the class which possesses the means of production is always the superior class possessing all the amenities of life and enjoying sufficient leisure to dabble in the different cultural pursuits, philosophical, scientific and artistic. The intellectual representations of such a class are sure to develop such philosophy which will give us the static view of things so that the rich and poor should be satisfied with their own positions. The entire history of philosophy, both European and Indian, is a case in point. If we look to the Indian philosophy we find that all the six orthodox systems present to us a static view of the universe. The social implications of this static philosophy are

very dangerous. Some systems deny all change and some maintain that the change that we see is illusory. Many people may think that of these systems at least there is one, the Sankhya system, which admits the existence of change in as much as it advocates evolution. But one is disillusioned if one tries to look into this Sankhya evolution closely. Sankhya starts with two ultimate principles—Purusha and Prakriti. Sankhya explicitly states that these two principles are entirely opposite in nature and that they can never come into relation with each other. They seem to come into relation due to ignorance (अविवेक) so the entire evolution is there because of this ignorance. The moment one attains knowledge there is the abolition of the relation between the two (प्रसव सम्यग्ज्ञान). And for him, the liberated and the emancipated soul, the entire evolution vanishes. So we find that even this system advocates the static view of things and considers change to be illusory. It is this static philosophy which has kept for centuries the edifice of feudalism in India intact. The feudal lords, aided by the intellectual guidance of the parasite Brahmins, have till this day an uninterrupted sway over the destiny of our country. The feudal State has been the main prop of all religion and philosophy. The priests in the European countries and the Brahmins in India have been given all support by the State in order to make the interests of the feudal lords safe on intellectual grounds. Whenever any movement on the intellectual plane has been launched against it, it has met with vehement opposition. We all know

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MAKING DEMOCRACY DIFFICULT

The Viceroy has said that the coming elections would enable the will of the Indian electorate to be known. Lord Wavell has advisedly not used the expression "Indian people" but "Indian electorate". If the will of the Indian people, could have been found from the election, it would have been worth the trouble, time and money spent in the process. As things are, only the will of a very small section, probably less than 10 p. c. of the people, will be known from the result of the elections. The well-established and older political parties are not worried over the result of the election as they are confident that those who voted for them last time will vote for them again. The newer political parties, those that have the support of the common people, are greatly handicapped as most of their supporters are either not eligible or if eligible, their name may not be on the electoral roll. To require a voter to spend Rs. 2/12, for getting his name properly entered in the electoral roll is to exclude all poor men from the Indian "democracy". We do not know what is happening in other provinces, but so far as our own province is concerned, it is quite evident that the authorities are determined that the will of as few members of the electorate as possible should be known. There is no other rational explanation of the extremely unhelpful attitude of the authorities to those who intend to take part in the coming elections. The final electoral rolls are going to be completed on October 15. Without referring to the rolls prepared in 1941, no one can know if his name is in it or not. The procedure that has to be followed for securing this information has been made both costly and troublesome, so that the average man may never think of being a

voter. One has to apply with a fee of Rs. 2/- to know if his name is in the rolls last prepared. For getting his name entered, he has to pay another 1/12. These payments are to be made in non-judicial stamps, and we do not think enough stamps of this special variety will be available if a considerable body of people want to get their names entered in the rolls. The fees that one has to pay in finding out if one's name is in the electoral roll and, if not, to get the necessary entry made, are prohibitive. There must be many families in the Patna urban area where the adult males are all matriculates and the women literate. The average number of voters from such families will be about 4 to 6. To ask them to spend 11 to 16 rupees makes voting a costly luxury. This is not all. For examining the electoral roll to find out if one's name is entered there and entered correctly, a resident of Kadamkuan has to go to the S.D.O.'s office in Gulzarbagh and spend a day there, besides the cost of conveyance. It is said that very few printed electoral rolls are available and it is not possible for anyone to buy them by paying the price. Instead of making it easy for the people to take part in the coming elections, every conceivable device has been adopted to make it difficult, in fact impossible.

It is curious that the various provincial governments are not following a uniform policy with respect to the elections. The Government of Bombay alone seems to have made the enlightened decision to completely revise the electoral rolls so as to bring them up to date.

A HASHISH DREAM

The most gorgeous technicolour films that ever came out of Hollywood studios look drab and grey compared to the picture of Bengal as it will be after the working of the 5-year post-war reconstruction plan, drawn up by the Government of that unfortunate province. Everything that is calculated to make a heaven of earth has been thought of, nothing has been omitted. The standard of living of the people will be raised (it is already pretty high with rice selling at Rs. 25 a

maund), 3500 miles of new roads will be constructed, irrigation projects will supply water, hydro-electric projects will supply cheap electricity everywhere, drainage projects will remove water-logging, waste lands will be reclaimed, water hyacinth eradicated, water-ways improved. Live-stock breeding stations will supply pedigree cattle, technical training institutions will supply skilled workers, the silk industry will be given a high kick, large scale exploitation of inland, coastal and estuarine fisheries will produce millions of maunds of fish daily. We are reminded that the BAY OF BENGAL IS THE SECOND BEST FISHING GROUND IN THE WORLD (A *wrong* statement, by the way. Every school boy knows that the most important sea-fishing areas of the world are in temperate and cold regions, where there is a mingling of cold and warm ocean currents. The Bay of Bengal does not satisfy these conditions and so can never be even in the same class as the important fishing areas of the world. To speak of the Bay of Bengal as being the "second best fishing ground in the world" is to parade one's ignorance of elementary geography). Primary education will be modelled on the Sargent Report, with 50,000 schools and 250,000 trained teachers. There will be adult education centres in villages, 16,400 beds in hospitals, 500 new rural dispensaries, co-operative development of the hand-loom industry and co-operative marketing of agricultural produce. Forests will be rehabilitated and there will be reforestation (of inhabited areas?). Of course vigorous anti-malarial measures have not been forgotten.

Nothing is said in the plan about providing the people of Bengal with wings, harps and haloes. Presumably they will have to queue up before State-sponsored shops to buy these at controlled prices. The impatient ones may of course get them from the regular black market.

The cost of making a *behest*, *swarga*, heaven, valhalla, paradise, olympus or elysium of Bengal will cost only Rs. 104 crores. We are not told if ex-Administrators of Refugee Camps will be given the

contract. Most probably not, as the general administration is to be strengthened at a cost of Rs. 7 1/2 crores. Perhaps this means 300 top men at Rs. 4000 a month.

There are queer people in the world: one such from Calcutta has written to us that he would barter the glorious Bengal of five years hence for a single piece of dhoti (5 yds) to-day, for the coming Pujahs. He does not disbelieve that all that the planners propose to bring about cannot be accomplished. Only he is sure that even America does not possess as many atom bombs to-day as would be needed before reconstruction of Bengal can begin.

The planners have not apparently anticipated one contingency: In 1950, God may decide to leave His derelict Heaven and come down to settle in gorgeous Bengal. Have they thought of providing suitable accommodation for Him? The Belvedere will not do.

A TALK ON TIME

Britain has already gone back to her natural time. President Truman has also abolished "war time" in America and clocks in the U. S. are showing Standard Time from Oct. 1. The Government of India have never been noted for quick celebration and in spite of what the rest of the civilized world may do, our clocks will continue keeping war time till perhaps 1950.

A writer in the Illustrated Weekly has made the suggestion that in future, Delhi time should be adopted as the Indian Standard Time. This betrays complete ignorance of the principle on which Standard time in different countries is fixed. The whole surface of the globe is divided into a number of north-south time-belts or zones and each country keeps its time according to the zone in which it is situated, there is no choice in this matter. In Europe, there are 3 time-belts: (1) West European Time is Greenwich Time, it is observed in Britain, Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal (2) Mid European Time is one hour ahead of Greenwich Time, it is observed in Germany, Italy, Hungary, Denmark, Malta, Norway, Czechoslovakia, Sweden.

Notes & Comments

Austria, Switzerland. (3) East-European Time is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Time, it is the time of Bulgaria, Greece, Roumania, Turkey. West Russian Time is 3 hours ahead of Greenwich Time. Time in Iran is 4 hours ahead of Greenwich Time.

India, because of her large size (nearly 2000 miles from Quetta to Sadiya), falls in two time-belts, those that are five hours and six hours ahead respectively of Greenwich Time. So, instead of having a West-Indian Time, 5 hours ahead of Greenwich Time and an East Indian Time, 6 hours ahead of Greenwich Time, a compromise was effected by making the Indian Standard Time 5½ hours ahead of Greenwich Time. It is not the time of any city, certainly not of Madras or Allahabad as is popularly believed, but it is the time of 82½ degrees East Longitude. Burma Time is one hour ahead of Indian Standard Time, that is to say, during all the war years we have been really keeping Burma Time. Singapore Time is half an hour ahead of Burma Time or 1½ hours ahead of I. S. T. Hong Kong time is 2½ hours and Japan Time is 3½ hours ahead of Indian Standard Time. It will be evident from the above that the times in adjacent time-belts differ either by one hour, or in some cases by 30 minutes. If Delhi time is adopted as the Standard Time of India, then I. S. T. would be 5 hours 9 minutes ahead of Greenwich Time, which would be absurd.

Sensible and certainly practicable is the suggestion made by the *Statesman* that considering her great west to east expanse India should have two Standard Times. This is the rule in all countries that extend through many degrees of longitude. In Canada and the United States there are five different times—Atlantic Time, Eastern Time, Central Time, Mountain Time and Pacific Time. The time in each belt is one hour ahead of that in the next belt in the above order. In Australia and Brazil there are three time-belts. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, extending over 160 degrees of longitude, has the largest number of different time-belts, at east ten.

One Of The War Secrets

According to an A.P. message from Bombay (Sept. 17), 15,000,000 yards of cloth are to be sent to Malaya to meet the requirements of the people there.

We are assured that this export will not affect the cloth position in India as the allotment is only a part of the exports to other countries.

We have a great curiosity to know who these other fortunate people are who have a priority over the people of this country (who are suffering from a cloth famine in spite of the stupid statements of Vellodi and Co.) for cloth manufactured here. With the dawn of peace we have less to wear than we had when the war was on. What angers the people is that nobody in authority deigns to give any explanation for the shortage that really explains. In the absence of any satisfactory explanation, it is natural for the people to conclude that the capitalist trustees of the country are exporting more and more cloth because it fetches a higher price in East Africa and in the Middle East than it does in India. The permit for such large exports are being issued by the other trustee, the Government. One set of trustees are making huge profits, the agents of the other trustee are having a share in these profits, meanwhile the cloth famine is increasing in intensity.

The Way The Wind Blows

Following Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugo-Slavia and Germany,—Turkey has passed a Land Reforms Act according to which many of the landed estates will be broken up into small holdings to be distributed among troops when they are demobilized. Details regarding the sizes of these small holdings and whether the big landlords will be compensated for the lands expropriated are lacking.

The Same Old Story

According to the *Times* correspondent in Singapore, in Malaya there has been a great increase in the power of the Left during the past four years and the resistance movement there has revolved around the hard core of the Malayan Communist Party. The latter is efficiently—indeed, ruthlessly—

There was a homely lady named Bina
Who found very odd the men's demeanour.

But at the Big News
They came in queues.

—She was the SWEEPSTAKE FIRST PRIZE winner.

Pelican

organized and has maintained liaison with Yen-an and also with the Communist Party of India. The above account is practically the same, word for word, as what we have already been told about Belgium, France, Italy, Yugo-Slavia, Greece, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, Burma and Indo-China. Relations between the Left-wing groups and the Chinese Kuomintang organizations have been strained during the period of Japanese occupation, at times resulting in open hostilities. The above incident is remarkably parallel to the happenings in Yugo-Slavia during German occupation. For "Left-wing groups" read "Tito's Partisans" and for "Kuomintang organizations" read "Mihailovitch's Chetniks".

The D. V. A.

The scheme for the Damodar Valley Project is designed to benefit 5 million people living in the valley and another 2½ million in neighbouring towns and cities. The project contemplates a series of reservoirs to provide a perennial supply of water for irrigation to serve an area of about 750,000 acres and also for hydro-electric power stations to supply a load of 300,000 kilowatts, besides helping in flood control. The plan

includes the building of 8 dams and a barrage. The area to be served contains India's main coal resources and is likely to be highly industrialized in future. The first two dams to be planned in detail are those at Maithon on the Barakar and at Aiyar on the Damodar.

There are three objections to the plan: (1) the high incidence of malaria in the lower Damodar valley may increase, this may be prevented by spraying D. D. T. from the air; (2) a large number of villages will be submerged and the people will have to leave their hearths and homes; (3) the formation of reservoirs may cause coal mines in the area to be flooded.

The Difference

The Association of British Chambers of Commerce (London) has asked H. M. Government to appoint a Committee to consider the adoption of decimal coinage in Britain.

In India, the Government proposed decimalization of coinage but the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has opposed it.

Beating Tanks To Tractors

The war is academically at an end, but all the thousands of new jobs created under the excuse of the war continue. There are several explanations—

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Managing Director: Dr. S. B. DUTTA, M. A., B. L., Ph. D. (Econ.) (Lond.) Bar-at-Law

for this. One is that it has been discovered that though shots are not being fired or bombs dropped anywhere, hostilities can only officially cease by the passing of an Act by the Parliament. This may take several years and if in the meantime, World War III starts, there would be no need to take the trouble. Another reason is that a large number of the "war additions" to the Government of India staff are those who are (a) relatives, (b) friends, (c) relations of friends, (d) friends of relatives, of the Big Hon'bles and so long as the present Big Hon'bles continue, the war staff cannot be reduced.

The war will be officially over some day, may be five years hence, so the wiser ones among the "war" officers are getting their designations changed to suit peace time conditions and assure permanency. Publicity officers are being

NOTICE

Know all men whom it may concern that the Pol. No. 55663 in my favour by the Hindusthan Co-operative Insurance Society Ltd. Calcutta, has been lost to which effect I have affirmed an affidavit before the Magistrate (1st class) Sadar Court, Patna. The said Policy is hereby made null and void and anybody dealing with the same will do so at his own risk.

T. N. Ganguly

Patna Medical College Hospital

Applications in the prescribed form are invited for the award of scholarships (ladies only) of the value of Rs. 25 per month each, for training as pupil midwives at the above hospital.

Applicants must be Matriculates, aged 19 years or over and live in the Nurses' Home subject to all rules which apply to nurses in training. The completed course of 2 years gives successful candidates eligibility to take Health Visitors' training.

Copies of rules and the prescribed form of application for the award of the scholarship can be obtained from the undersigned. Applications should reach this office not later than 15th October, 1945.

Secretary,

Nurses' Selection Committee,
Patna Medical College Hospital,
P. O. Bankipore, Patna.

metamorphosed to INFORMATION OFFICERS, National War Front Officers are undergoing a peace change to FIELD PUBLICITY ORGANIZATION OFFICERS. Recruitment officers are DEMOBILIZATION OFFICERS. This is quite comparable to the switching over of war industries to consumers goods production going on in Britain and America to-day.

A Miscalculation Due To Misunderstanding

The gallant American General MacArthur has raised a hornet's nest in America by declaring that only 2,00,000 American troops would be needed as the Army of occupation in Japan. The State Department's estimate was at least 9,00,000.

Field Marshal Sir Henry Maitland Wilson has said in an interview to the *Baltimore Sun*: "By withdrawing its occupation forces from Japan on a large scale, the U. S. is leaving the field alone to Russia."

It is quite evident that General MacArthur did not know the real purpose for which the American Army of occupation was to be kept in Japan. Had he known that the American Army of Occupation in Japan was really meant to check Russia, he would surely not have under-estimated the size of the Army needed. He found the Japanese authorities submissive and obeying orders and hence thought that 2 lakhs would be ample.

A Reminder

Those in Britain who are shocked at Russia's demand for participation in the control of the Dardanelles, jointly with Turkey, must have a short memory. Have they forgotten that in the secret treaty of 1915 between the Allies, Russia was promised Istanbul and the Dardanelles? It was the Bolshevik revolution in Russia that gave the western Powers a welcome chance to drop the promises made in 1915.

We Postpone Our Date Of Suicide

Our dwindling faith in human nature has received a great stimulus on reading the news that there has been a great dock strike all over the east coast of Australia from Sydney to Brisbane and that 30,000 Australian water-side workers have stoutly refused to load ships going from Australia to Java, on the ground that these ships were carrying arms to Indonesia to be used against the independence movement there. The Executive of the New Zealand dock workers has expressed admiring approval of the decision of their Australian confreres. An attempt was made by the authorities to make use of Indian lascars to work these ships but the Australian demonstrators called upon them not to do so and the lascars walked off. Chinese seamen also have been asked to have

nothing to do with these ships under the dock-workers' embargo. The leader of the International Union of Longshoremen in the U. S. has cabled congratulations to the Australians.

As usual in such incidents, the blame is being laid on communists. If that be true then we think the communists are much better than they are represented to be.

The Queer world of 'Controls'

Mysterious are the ways of cloth controllers. In the cloth ration shop to which we the residents of Kadam Kuan have been allotted (Girija Prasad), there is a large stock of whole thans of markin and long cloth but it is not sold because markin and long cloth are listed by the cloth controllers as "popular" varieties. There is no possibility of this stock being sold so long as these varieties are not depopularized.

It seems that most controls work on the principle that if scarcity can be created artificially by making rules, there would be ample justification for prolonging the control and (most important) continuing the new posts that have been created to carry out the control measures. So we have the spectacle of unsold accumulated stock in shops and people not being able to buy what they need.

A Party Split

There are signs of a likely split in the Conservative Party of Britain. Mr. Churchill, who leads one group of Conservatives, thinks that the politics of the Conservative Party should be unremitting, uncompromising opposition to the Labour Government and that this opposition should be directed against all legislation proposed by the socialists.

This view is strongly opposed by the Tory Reform Committee headed by Mr. Quentin Hogg who thinks that barren opposition to what are genuine reforms and what are demanded by the public would keep the Conservative Party in political wilderness for ever.

It is said that the majority of Conservatives follow Mr. Churchill's lead but the Tory Reform group may reject Mr. Churchill's leadership and follow their own policies in the Parliament.

Blaming The Barometer For The Weather

We do not quite see why so much fuss is being made in British journalistic circles over the conclusion of an economic agreement between Russia and Hungary without any previous consultation with the other Allied Powers. What Russia is and has been doing in Central Europe and the Balkans—Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Roumania, Bulgaria and Yugo-Slavia is only the logical outcome of the San Francisco Conference.

The United Nations' Conference for International Organization (U. N. C. I. O.) that

met in San Francisco has legalized Big Three rule of the globe. It has given all the power to Russia, Britain and the U. S. with the smaller States as political vassals of their big cousins. The world has been divided into three spheres of influence, and the smaller countries will have to seek the protection of one or other of the Big Three, in a world-wide feudal system, even to the extent of paying "tribute" for such protection.

The U. S. is the strongest single bloc—economically. Its jurisdiction extends over the whole of the new world,—North America and the 20 Latin American Republics, besides a large part of the island-dotted Pacific. China stands as the buffer between the U. S. and the Soviet spheres of influence.

The British bloc includes the Empire, besides Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Turkey and the Middle East. Both the U. S. and the Soviet are also interested in the last because Iran, Iraq and Arabia are now potentially the richest sources of petroleum in the world.

Of the three blocs, the Russian is territorially the strongest. Besides the Soviet Union, it includes Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the greater part of Germany and Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Roumania, Bulgaria, Yugo-Slavia, Outer Mongolia and perhaps Manchuria.

It is a tightly-knit bloc of countries ruled by specialists trained in Moscow, not necessarily all Communists, but who will follow Stalin in his foreign policy. None of them, want a world-wide Communistic revolution but they know full well that the only way to their safety lies in following Moscow's lead. These countries, satellites of the Soviet, are comparatively free in their internal administration, but in return for the protection afforded them, they are bound to grant economic concessions to the "protecting Power". These trade agreements and financial arrangements are beneficial to the protecting Power, but the smaller countries are also assured of security, markets and sources of supplies. Hungary has done nothing more than what Poland and Czechoslovakia have already done, and considering the present world setting it was nothing to be scandalized about but only to be expected. Russia is not interfering in Italy and Greece which are in the British sphere of influence.

Correction

Pages 787, 788, 789, 790 of this issue are to be read as pages 7, 8, 9, 10. From this issue begins the 72nd volume of the Behar Herald.

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Science Is Nobody's Special Preserve

By J. N. Ghosh

Prof. Oliphant of the Birmingham University and a member of the Technical Committee of Scientists who developed the atom bomb, has dashed the fond hopes of politicians to the ground—that the atom bomb can be a patent secret with this or that country to the exclusion of all others. According to Prof. Oliphant, any industrially developed country can discover the secret of atom bomb manufacture in 5 years; any determined industrial country can have it in two years.

The manufacture of the atom bomb is a very good example of the international co-operation that leads to scientific discoveries. Uranium was discovered by the German chemist Martin Heinrich Klaproth in 1789. The French physicist, Antoine Henri Becquerel, first discovered the radio-active property of Uranium, 50 years ago. The science of Radio-activity, which has given the atom bomb to the world, developed through the work of the French physicist Pierre Curie, his more famous Polish wife, Marie Sklodowska Curie, the New Zealander Ernest Rutherford and the English chemist Frederic Soddy. The English physicist, Lord Rutherford first succeeded in artificially breaking up stable atoms like those of nitrogen, boron and chlorine by directing on these atoms the alpha particles* emitted by Radium atoms.

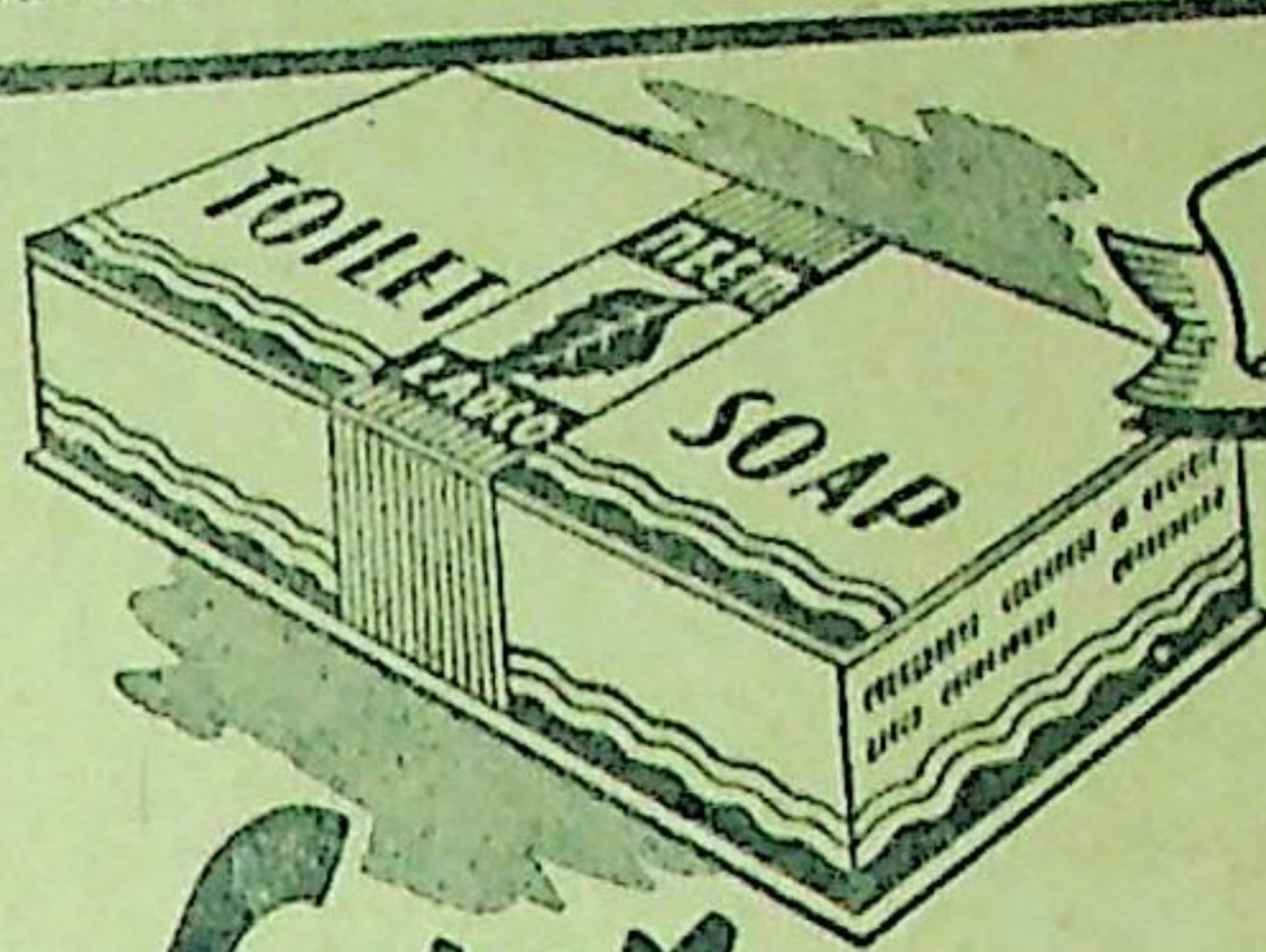
*Naturally radio-active elements like Radium, Polonium, Thorium, Uranium, Actinium, Meso-Thorium are all the time spontaneously breaking up and emitting powerful radiations, similar to X-rays, and ejecting material particles (electrons and alpha particles) out of the nucleus of their atoms. This automatic breaking up of atoms is accompanied by the evolution of heat, but as the atomic break-down proceeds at a very slow rate, the actual amount of heat liberated at any given time is extremely small. The alpha particles given out by radioactive atoms are powerful missiles and may shatter other atoms by their impact.

The neutron, a small particle, (so-named because it carries no electric charge) but 1840 times as massive as an electron and one of the constituents of the nucleus of an atom, was discovered in 1932 by the Italian physicist, Enrico Fermi. He showed the neutron to be an excellent "atom-buster" because having no electric charge, it is easier for it to penetrate the nucleus of an atom than it is for an alpha particle carrying a positive electric charge. Fermi was the first to bombard uranium atoms with neutrons and disintegrate them. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1938. In 1939, Dr. Fermi left Italy for the U. S. and became professor of Physics at the Columbia University. Fermi's work was followed up in the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute, Berlin, by Dr. Miss Lise Meitner (67) an Austrian Jewess and her co-workers, Otto Hahn and Strassman. On 6th January, 1939, they published their now famous conclusion that when the Uranium atom explodes by the impact of neutrons, it does not merely give off radiations and relatively light particles (as all radio-active substances do) but it breaks up into two almost equal parts. The theoretical explanation of this new discovery was supplied by the Danish scientist, Niels Bohr, professor of Physics in Copenhagen University. According to him, heavy atoms like thorium, uranium etc are unstable because of the large number of particles which they contain. He compared these heavy atoms to big water-drops which when they become too large and are slightly disturbed, easily break up into two smaller drops of nearly equal size. In the case of heavy atoms, like those of Uranium, the disturbance is caused by the entrance of the neutron. Bohr was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1922 for his work on the structure of atoms.

Careful examination of the products of such disintegration of the Uranium atom showed that there

was a small fraction of the uranium mass which could not be found in the resulting products. This was explained by saying that the missing mass was converted into energy. It was further thought that when the Uranium atom broke up into

two other atoms, some neutrons were also liberated. This point was checked by Irene Curie (the daughter of Madame Curie) and her husband, F. Joliot, working in Paris and also some Japanese scientists. These workers gave definite experimental



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6
SCIENCE IS
 evidence that when the Uranium atom is broken by outside neutron bombardment, 3 neutrons are also liberated by each Uranium atom smashed. This was a discovery of the highest importance and led directly to the manufacture of the atom bomb. The neutrons, emitted by the broken uranium atoms, themselves penetrated other uranium atoms, broke them and produced more neutrons. Thus, once started, the process was not only a chain reaction; it was also self-accelerating. If a sufficiently large number of uranium atoms could be thus broken in a very short time, enormous quantities of energy could be set free at once. This is the last secret of the atom bomb. Any one succeeding in discovering a method of doing so will be able to manufacture atom bombs.

The Nazis and the Fascists would certainly have been able to make the atom bomb earlier than the Allies had their chickens not come home to roost. Dr. Enrico Fermi left his native country, Italy, for America because, he said, he wanted a freer atmosphere in which to work. Dr. Lise Meitner knew that al-

though the Nazis valued her researches, as a Jew she was hated in Germany. She went to work in the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Berlin before the rise of Hitler, but when the Nazis came to power, her professor, Max Planck, protected her from Gestapo persecution for being a Jewess. After Max Planck's death, she felt herself unsafe in Germany and at the first opportunity escaped to Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1939 and worked with Dr. Neils Bohr in his laboratory. When the Nazis invaded Denmark on April 9, 1940, both Bohr and Meitner fled to Sweden. Dr. Bohr left Sweden in 1943 for England and later joined Fermi in America. Dr. Meitner continued working in Stockholm where she still is. The atom bomb is thus seen to be the final step in a series of researches in which Jew, Christian, Shinto, Physicists, Chemists and Mathematicians; English, German, French, Danish, Swedish, Polish, Italian, Japanese and American scientists all contributed their quota. The initial work was carried out independently in many parts of the world, the final touches were given in America.

Ernest Bevin-'The Winston' Of The Labour Party

Brusque and aggressive but a charming personality
 By Ajit Gupta

Popular belief that successful political careers in England are meant for Etonians or Harrovians is once again belied by Ernest Bevin. Well-known in his closest circles as 'Ernie', this heavily-built, blunt, aggressive man may belie many of our preconceived notions.

He lost his parents in early life. Starting his career as a hapless boy in a Somerset farm on a small pittance of 9d per week, Bevin worked harder and harder to get a little more and, mind you, this little 'increase' meant much to him. Later years saw him move from this sphere to another, from a farm boy to tram conductor and then to shop assistant. At Bristol, the young Bevin found the real taste of his life. He began organising the unemployed and founded the Transport and General Worker's Union. His work for the Unions got him the title of the 'Dockers' KC'.

Love Of Power Kindles Ambition

Immensely fond of power, his ambition is boundless and in fact unfavourable conditions at early life never discouraged him to fix his eyes on No. 10 Downing Street or on the Foreign Office. All the same, Bevin has—may be a paradox—a capacity to deny power. Elasticity is in his marrow for he has seen life in the raw more than all his compatriots.

Winston Of The Labour Party

Vigour of speech, quick decision, rugged ways, strong determination and dash—are qualities which mark him out as the Winston of the Labour Party. But while Winston failed to adapt his brilliance to the peace-time conditions, Bevin—still to show his mettle—will not. He cannot look upon his country from a high pedestal. He was born and has grown in the midst of the 'masses'.

Some said he will be the Chancellor of the Exchequer and some said the Foreign Secretary. It would have been the former, but he chose the latter of his own. Dalton for the exchequer was his own selection.

Foreign office seemed to him the ideal niche for him at a time when thoughts were changing. He has supreme confidence that he will be able to handle the delicate but most responsible tasks that his office would hurl on him.

His intimate grasp of the world affairs would be the mainstay which during the days of the Coalition Government was reoriented by his personal relationship with Anthony Eden. To him, truly speaking, Eden has bequeathed his first hand knowledge of European affairs; Bevin's knowledge of men and things will be a valuable addition to it.

No Startling Innovation

Basic policy of Bevin will not, therefore, differ much from that of his predecessors. Years ahead may, however, see some changes according to circumstances.

His few beliefs regarding the world today are as follows:—

- (1) Victorious Powers must be cautious or else the centre of Europe would be a hotbed of troubles again.
- (2) Germany must be stripped of all "jingoism" but her people must not be crushed or kept idle.
- (3) Allies will not shed tears for the well-being of the German people. They must look after themselves domestically.
- (4) There must be free and democratic elections in Europe. In other words Dictatorship as a political creed must be defunct.
- (5) The Far East must be more carefully and sympathetically treated or else here another world war will brew.
- (6) He does not believe that Soviet Russia would form a European block against Great Britain.

Brusque, aggressive but astute—is Bevin. And we could think with considerable justification that he will see things done under a veneer of diplomacy and round about etiquette, things that he otherwise despises in personal life.

[It is interesting to note that Mr. Bevin's name finds no mention in the Who's Who of 10 years ago.—Ed. B. H.]



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OCTOBER 2, 1945

An Appeal For The Arrah College

The H. D. Jain College, established at Arrah, in July, 1942, has already made its mark as a centre of higher learning and excellent training for the youngmen of Bihar, and specially of the Shahabad District. It has fulfilled a long-felt want, as is evidenced by the rapid growth of the Institution during the short period of its existence for a little more than three years. In 1942, there were only 257 students on the roll. With the affiliation of the college to the B. A. standard in 1943, and to B. Com. standard in 1944, the number of students rose to 817 at the beginning of the year 1945.

The College has at present nearly 850 students. It is expected that after the publication of the results of the Supplementary Examination of 1945, not less than 300 students would seek admission into it, as there is absolutely no seat in any of the colleges at Patna. But the college has neither the accommodation nor equipment in books, furniture, common room, and hostels to admit so many students. With the utmost difficulty the present buildings can accommodate 950 students. The problem of constructing new buildings on the land generously given by the Maharaja Bahadur of Dumraon has thus become an urgent one. The healthy expansion of the college would be checked if this problem is not solved within a very short period. The problem will become all the more acute with the affiliation of the college to Honours standard in Economics and Principal Hindi, as the number of students seeking admission to the B. A. classes would then increase rapidly.

The total cost of construction of these buildings, even at a very modest scale, would be about three lakhs of rupees. Rs. 60,000/- has kindly been contributed by the Sri Adinath Trust, the remaining amount must be collected before November 1945, in order to be able to complete the construction of the college buildings by the beginning of the next session.

The Library, the Common Room, the Gymnasium, and the

A Durga Puja Episode

By Esobss

The great famous devotee and philanthropist Zemindar Ranabêer Ray of Ula (Nuddea) lived two hundred years ago and performed Durga Puja every year. He was a light sleeper, but dozed long and had many drowsy visions. It was rumoured just a month before the Durga Puja that other wealthy men of the village had had visions also, the goddess Durga appearing before them with some definite orders, often mischievous. His young friend and helper Gadadhar was in his house for the Puja arrangements. Boat-loads of things were being brought, extra structures erected, cooks engaged, volunteers enrolled, confectioners examined and dancing girls intimidated.

Ranabêer Ray slept in the open, and Gadadhar also occupied an adjoining bed. Ranabêer thought himself better qualified to pray with due devotion in the open and hold communion with the goddess. He dreamt of the coming agreeable hubbub of the great festival, and in his maddest moments thought that Durga was approaching him. When Ranabêer was snoring and relapsing into a half awake state, Gadadhar gently rose from his bed and held a pipe close to Ranabêer's ear and touching it whispered something in a suggestive or hypnotic tone. He had besmeared the tip of the pipe with sandal paste, so as to leave its scent in the ear, as if the goddess had touched the ear with her lips while whispering.

Next morning Ranabêer was very grave. He said to his Mosahebs and officers that he had had a dream, (as the odour of sandal in his ear proved,) in which the goddess Durga order-

Administrative Block would be called after the four biggest donors. A lecture hall would be named after the person who donates at least Rs. 20,000/-. A marble tablet will be placed in the middle of the college grounds and on it will be inscribed the names of all those donors who would contribute the minimum amount of Rs. 500/-. Any smaller contribution will also be gratefully accepted.

ed something impossible. "What was it, Ray Moshay, what was it?" asked his Dewan. The zemindar said in a low mysterious tone to all assembled that the goddess Durga had ordered as follows, though he did not know what the dreaded Ulai-Chandi Poonthi or Purana says on the subject:—

"Worship me as I will, and not as you wish, O you indulger in the heinous sin of avarice! Sacrifice one Boka Panta with human voice and speech. In default your zemindary will be confiscated by the foreigners who will overrun Bengal. I deliver this whispering order with my sandal-scented lips".

★ ★ ★
They shouted "Durga! Durga!"
His advisers agreed that every

Panta or goat is boka or silly: only human speech was required. That was a large order. In moods of humility they said that the Ulai-Chandi Purana might explain all, but at first reading the 56th chapter does not occasion alarm. It says that a Boka Patna may curse with its human voice but that is not dangerous, but if it curses with a goat voice mixed with human, God help the victim. Search must be made for such a silly goat with human voice alone. Then there is absolutely no danger. The world is full of wonderful flore and fauna, the ground-work of which is well known, to the goddess. Gadadhar said "Yes, otherwise she would not have passed such an order. "The zemindar was curious about the Ulai-Chandi-Purana, yet afraid to order his Pundit to

See Page 790



IN the bright morning sunlight of days gone by, a lovely lady of the Rajput Court bathes in the coolness of a secluded pool. Before soothing her skin with sweet scented oils her maid applies a thin cleansing paste of *oor* powder... for in those far-off days soap was quite unknown. Nowadays, the convenience and luxury of HAMAM SOAP is available to everyone. The soft, abundant lather of HAMAM SOAP possesses refreshing properties never dreamed of by the lovely lady in her harem garden.

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The Consumers' Conference met at a time when the war had already terminated officially. The blue sky was once again visible. The many complications and complexities that consumers have to face still, on account of the war, may cease to bother them in a few months' time. Still, things are not going to be as easy as they were before. The consumers of manufactured goods in India will be faced with new problems that might be created by international trade thriving upon sterling assets held in favour of India in England. America has already given a shock to international finance by abolishing lend-lease suddenly and without consulting the countries concerned. The financial experts have yet to judge what will be its repercussions on India's finance and trade. Baffling as they may be to the Indian people the problem of procurement and distribution of raw materials will appear still more hard for them to solve, as the exports of Indian raw materials multiply to satisfy the needs of war-torn Europe and China and the factories of America. Then there will be the large influx of population by the return of Indian soldiers from abroad.

As early as in 1940 I and some of my friends had anticipated the economic crisis that swept over India to a degree of precision, we ourselves could never expect. It was then that

The Consumers' Conference

By B. C. Ghosh

we conceived of the idea of organising the people against profiteering and economic disorder. We had appealed for the formation of a Citizens' Defence Corps in every locality to protect the people in the event of a crisis overtaking the country and the forces of evil overwhelming society and public life. If such an organisation could have been built even in the early days of 1942, I am confident the black chapter that defaces the Indian history of the last 3 years would never have been written. But, insurmountable were the obstacles we had come across before we could form the Central Board. The All India Youth League had taken up the work in right earnest and had hoped to give effect to the scheme of organisation formulated by the Central Board, at the first Conference of the A. I. Y. L. But the Conference could never be held. The strong hand of repression, accounts for it. The entire Executive was arrested. The whole scheme of Citizens' Defence Corps was buried along with it. The history of the last repression began with this. One by one, almost everybody who counted in the public life of the country was lodged behind the prison bars. Whether as a detinue or as a convict they joined us there. The roller of repression passed over the country. Those who were left behind either found themselves helpless or were afraid of doing

anything. From behind the prison bars we heard with a heavy heart the agony of the people, and could only join in their groaning.

Taking advantage of the situation, the miscreants of society raised their heads. Those who were in hiding and could revel only in dark nights came out in the broad day light. The people could hardly be expected to raise their voice against them and had to submit meekly to exploitation. 95% of the population in India took to black marketing directly or indirectly. Profiteering became the order of the day. Huge quantities of foodstuffs were taken out of the market and the agricultural peoples' households or farm and stocked and stacked in godowns only to be decomposed there and spoilt. Millions died of hunger or epidemic. The capitalist society reinforced its structure on the corpses of the poor. The middle class almost became extinct. The unemployed no doubt got employment but corruption was wide-spread and salaries became insignificant. The morale of the services went down lower than ever before. The barbaric age, when men cut each other's throat, returned. The result was a mighty chaos. The repercussion of it all has fallen on the one class—the consumers. They have to suffer all hardships and to pay for every corruption. In the ultimate analysis it is the consumer alone who suffers. While men in profession or services got not more than 25 p. c. increase in income or salary, the prices of most goods were raised 400 %

The rationing system has failed. Articles of daily necessity

have disappeared from the market and an honest consumer cannot get what he wants. Cloth baffles solution. Rice is often inedible. Oil, coal and sugar are scarce. Matches difficult to get at times. Prices of everything are almost beyond the means of the middle classes. Where did the things disappear?

Foodstuffs and clothes have passed and are passing out of India. The bulk of these are of course in the black market. Things that disappear from the market, reappear there. When you do not find a thing in the open market, you are sure to get it in the black market. The consumer who is able to pay never goes without a single thing—he has only to pay heavily the enemies of society to get what he wants. An inefficient administration not only fails to stop it but in many cases helps it to foster and grow.

While the people were groaning under this economic disorder, a group of men and women were exploiting the situation and the apathy of the people to their individual benefit. These exploiters with the help of officials established Consumers' Committees and Associations with their and other officials' nominees and posed as the only friend of the people, working for their benefit. A desperate people naturally ran to them for the little help they could get.

Huge stocks of cloth are at places kept reserved for officials and the balance is allowed to be put up for sale amongst the people. A Superintendent of a State Railway Commercial Department once raided a cloth shop and took away almost by force a huge quantity of cloth and the S. D. O. proved helpless against him. I had been at Patna just for one month from July 14 to August 15, and applied for a Ration Card shortly after my arrival here, but I left Patna without being supplied a Ration Card and therefore any rationed articles for one month. But for the Hotels supplying food at a very high rate, and the unrationed foodstuffs available in the market I would have starved for that month.

A Consumers' Co-operative with a Vigilance Committee in every village, industrial area and municipal ward seems to be the consumers' immediate protection against the present evil.



Money has wings and always loves to roam
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A Reply From Prof. Harold Laski

By Amicus Curiae

Recently I wrote to Prof. Laski on the Indian situation. My letter and his reply are under-scribed. Prof. Laski evidently misunderstood my point referred to in the second part of his reply. The reader will find that out soon enough.

One part of my letter may appear cryptic to readers—the reference to mechanical agencies. To-day, the 18th September, the newspapers report the experiences of a woman who underwent gas chamber methods at the Auschwitz concentration camp in Upper Silesia. It may be news to many that such methods have been employed in India for about 4 years now. Incidentally it may interest many to know that when Sir Neville Henderson, formerly British Ambassador to Germany, interviewed Hermann Goering to protest against German Concentration Camps, the latter coolly took down a book of reference from his library shelf and pointed out that the idea of Concentration Camp originated with the British during the South African War!

* * *
Dear Prof. Laski,

A busy man like you will I am sure not welcome the attention of new correspondents. Taking advantage however of the new spirit that is now supposed to inform the Labour Party I venture to address the following few lines to you.

The General Elections seem to show that the British people wish to turn a new chapter and to discard the Tory idea that principle is inferior to policy. We in India are not being given indication of any such change. I shall not say a word about the Wavell Plan or the Simla conference as this was before the Elections. I wish to beg leave to remind you here of your protestations in reply to American criticism—I refer to the book "The Strategy of Freedom". A relevant passage is: "My answer is the vital answer that the movement of India and the Colonies to self-government is one that, given our Victory, it is not in the power of Mr. Churchill or of the Labour Party in a fundamental way to arrest... I admit and I do not condone the blind prejudice of Mr. Churchill against Indian self-government. I admit, and I do not condone,

the grave unwisdom of the Labour Party in acquiescing in that blindness." The question obviously does not arise any longer of the Labour Party's acquiescing in or dissenting from a third agency's decisions.

As you know, the chief political-cum-communal parties in India with vested interests are the Muslim League and the Hindu Mahasabha and distrust between the two is almost inevitable as long as a communal consummation is envisaged over the idea of an eventual Hindu Raj or Muslim Raj. The idea of Raj is of course attractive because of the vested interests. The National Congress, the largest political body, is a democratic and non-communal organisation with a considerable leavening of Socialism in its political make-up.

If England at long last has the backing of principle for its policy, and if her home and colonial policy may have the maximum unity, a Socialistic approach to her problems may be adumbrated for India. In India vested interests are almost synonymous with communalism so that if the former sheds its apparent attraction due to the pursuit of a Socialist policy, communalism will also melt away. Mr. Jinnah might then quite conceivably not even press for Hindu Muslim parity let alone his present demand for parity with the rest of India.

There is another point I would like to mention. British Electors have shown this time their severe disapproval of Parliamentarianism as we knew it in the past. And it is well known that the difference between Socialism and Communism is the faith in a parliament. If therefore in spite of its principles and opportunities the Attlee Government follow the tactics of their predecessors in office by making concessions to Socialism in home affairs and continuing in the imperialist's role abroad, and run the government of India for instance, on communal lines as now, they will go against the

mandate of the British Electorate, create a museum of a Government and complicate British Foreign Policy. Practically all the World over except in the U. S. A. and Japan public policy has been much more simplified and unified over the issue of Socialism.

All this is as it occurs to me but I am not at all convinced that the Indian Government is at all anxious for uniformity with British Home Policy. On the contrary a major party with vested interests, the Muslim League, is made to declare for the preservation of the present Status Quo because it is easy to dub any change as one for Hindu Raj, there being no usefulness in any attempt to refute such an allegation as there is no well defined policy or programme of the British Indian Government.

On the other hand if you make enquiries at the India Office you should be able to find out that mechanical agencies are being employed to hinder forces of freedom and progress and make slaves of men, beside which the worst Nazi Gestapoism would pale into insignificance.

I trust you will be able at your convenience to give me your considered reply.

My interest in politics is that of a man-in-the-street but I believe the Indian National Congress alone can make the correct approach to our problems.

* * *
Devon Lodge
Addison Bridge Place
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Pulhan 2444
5-9-45

Dear Mr.—

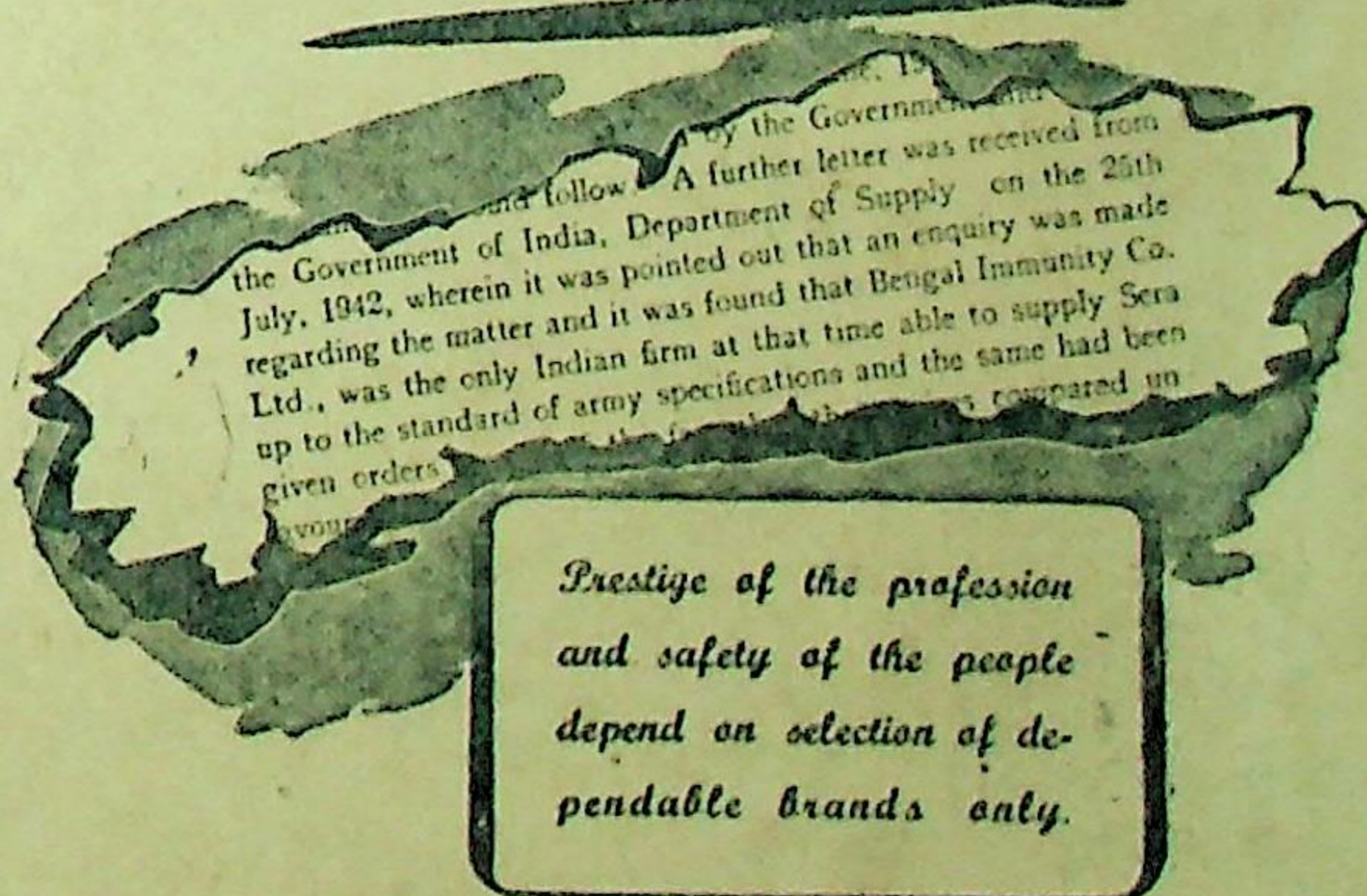
(1) The first act of the New Indian Secretary was to summon Lord Wavell home for consultation. I hope there will emerge from this a new basis on which to solve the Indian problem. It is just as important to your freedom as to ours. I agree that the arrogant claims of Mr. Jinnah should not be allowed to stand in the way.

(2) You are quite mistaken in believing that the elections meant that the voters rejected the Parliamentary system; on the contrary, it meant that the voters authorised the Labour Party to attempt to begin building a Socialist Commonwealth through Parliament.

Yours very truly
H. J. Laski

P. S. I was interested to see that you live in a street called after my old friend Lajpat Rai.

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DURGA PUJA ...

From page 789

explore clearly what it forbodes and prophesies. The Pundit said if the worst came, to the worst he would then cite the relevant passage in open durbar, and allay impertinent terrors, 'No fear!' said he.

★ ★ ★

There was a wicked shop-keeper at Santipur who was famous for an elongated tuft of hair dangling from his chin. He was hated by all the villagers and also by visitors from other villages. Nobody knew his real name, nor cared to know it,—villagers had given him a nick name and that sufficed for reference. The nick

name was such that he hated it, and if any one did ask 'What's your name' he would fly into a rage, thinking that his nick name was about to be mentioned by them, who knew no other. The year before Gadadhar had gone to buy tobacco and addressed him by his nickname. The shopkeeper slapped him, and made him lie ill of a terrible toothache for a week, and from that day Gadadhar bore a grudge against him. He secured a bamboo pipe for vengeance.

★ ★ ★

The zemindar visited Santipur on tour and stopped his elephant in front of the wicked man's shop. He

said "Look here, shopkeeper, I want 130 maunds of ghee, and 250 maunds of fragrant Navadwip rice, and—well what's your name my good man?"

The shop-keeper jeeringly replied "You too are also in that game which they have been pursuing for so many years? All right, I don't care what you call me: what will you do, what *can* you do, yes my name is Boka Panta. Will this give you now the diversion you want? You fool upon an elephant! Instead of retrenching the evils of life by the Durga Puja, you have employed traitors to multiply your dangers!" He looked askant at Gadadhar on the elephant.

The whole retinue roared "Durga-Mayee-ki-jai! Mother, you will now get a Boka Panta with human speech! The zemindary is saved! Puckro: Pucke-ro!" The man Boka Panta was seized by the zemindar's men as if they had discovered one hitherto unknown gold mine. Boka Panta wept, but was told "You will go to heaven: you will be sacrificed before Mother Durga." Human sacrifice was then still in vogue to a diminished extent, and did not appear fully dreadful to imaginations which experienced, omens, apparitions, visions, and dreams.

★ ★ ★

To be on the safe side, Ranabeer asked Boka Panta: "Say Boka Panta, you bleat like a goat in addition to your human voice?" In the gathering blaze of anger the man roared forth:—You bleat, scoundrel and murderer.—not!! You are all a parcel of antiquated goats!" Ranabeer said in satisfaction "It is all right, Gadadhar,—in spite of the goatee that decorates his chin. The Durga Puja came: a beautiful image was installed by Ranabeer Ray. Goats, that had been already bought, were ordered to be kept in a neighbouring hall in a very comfortable and pleasant captivity as none could be sacrificed under the ambiguous order of the goddess,—"Sacrifice one Boka Panta with human voice" that seemed to indicate 'don't sacrifice any Panta (each being Boka) with goat voice' (The Mother has lent her ambiguity to the rationing literature and the

language of independence-offer.)

★ ★ ★

Boka Panta was bathed in Ganges water: a Jaba flower garland was thrown on his neck: the priest uttered some incantations: the Harkat was yawning before him: his head would soon be thrust into it, and his legs drawn behind with force: the Khara would descend on his neck to the tune of the sacrificial band 'Gizta-Gizor' 'Gizta-Gizor'. The goats in the neighbouring hall were bleating. He had heard that their lives were spared for their bleating. An inspiration came into his mind; the goddess made him see a vision, in broad day light, and in the presence of the crowd, though there was no evidence of her sandal perfume in his ear. As he was thrust into the Harkat, men shouted reverentially 'Maw, Maw go!' Boka Panta shouted in response "Ba! Ba-h-h-ba-ba-bya!" while the hatchet was still gleaming in the air, pending the holy priest's final word 'Strike'.

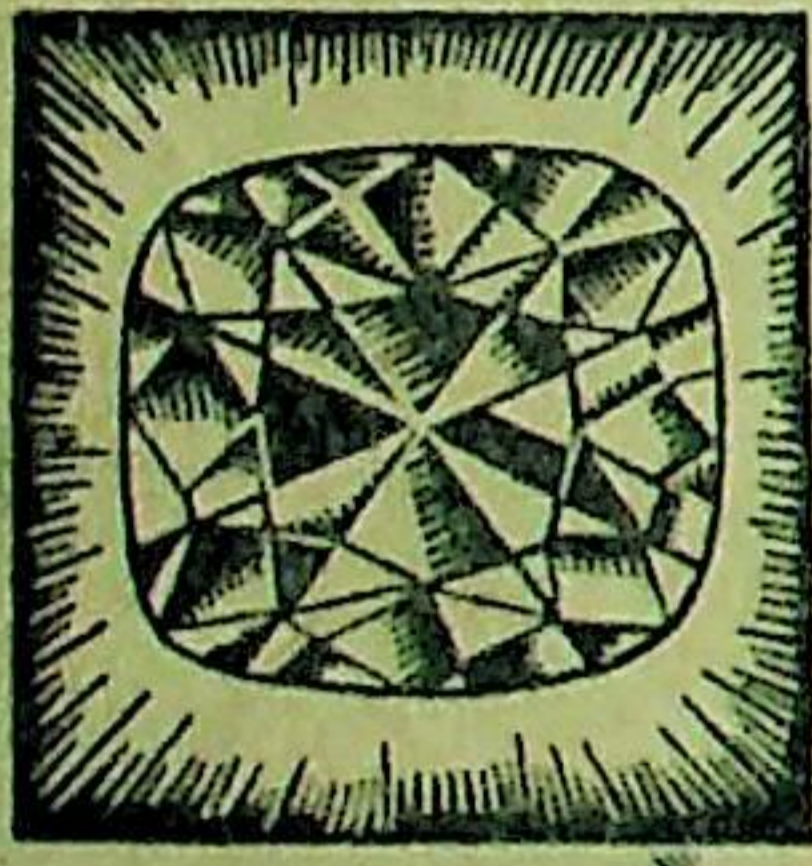
The extraordinary incident was followed by a hell of a noise: a thousand young devils roared: Ranabeer Ray trembled from head to foot: 'Mother! O Mother! Spare me hydrophobia, spare me Olaoota! Release Boka Panta, O you blacksmith hatchet in hand! Boka Panta has lost human speech!'

Boka Panta was set at liberty with a countenance full of fury. His neck had been pinched black and blue to get out of the scrape. Ranabeer was at a great distance separated by the crowd. Boka Panta telegraphed his triumph by showing him his clenched fist, and said to him loudly "I am the silly goat,—I am! but that brand of inferiority is much superior to your thick skull and dreamy ear: a goat's curse be upon you, die of Olaoota tonight,—ba-bah-byah bah-bah-bah! No angry Rishi could utter such a blood-curdling curse. Ranabeer wanted to fortify his soul against this gloomy presage. He asked his chief Pundit to read the Ulai-Chandi Poonthi now to learn whether divine protection or horror of death was in store for him. The Pundit read aloud a passage from the 56th Chapter in Sanskrit:—

When human voices curse
By no means is it worse
Than the human throat
That bleats like a goat
The curse kills in toto
A man by Olaoota!



HE CUT HIS FLESH TO KEEP IT SAFE...



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Pitt—the Governor of Madras—who could never sleep in peace as long as he had had the diamond, sold it to the Regent of France. Thus it came to be known as the "Regent".

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Introduction

Not many people seem to have realised the important role to be played by the cottage industries in the post-war era of India. There are different schools viewing the problem from different angles. One school believes that we should develop our cottage industries simply because we are poor and cannot have machinery. Some believe that it is for the solution of the vast problem of unemployment that we should have a "labour-absorbing" system of production instead of labour saving machinery. Some view it as being essential for raising the standard of life of the agriculturist by providing subsidiary occupation; while there are others who are inclined to smell some political motive behind the revival of cottage industries.

All are right but none is completely right. It is wrong to suppose that cottage industries are of a temporary nature. (Among Congressmen themselves there seems to be no one opinion. Some swear by cottage industries as a permanent feature of our economy, some favour it as a temporary expedient to be thrown off gradually as India becomes more and more industrialized and there are a few that do not believe in them at all.) Thus people must know that even in the most highly industrialised countries, small scale industries thrive even today. It is wrong to suppose that as a permanent measure these cottage industries could and should remain on the basis of the crude system of production obtaining in India to-day. Incidentally it is interesting to note that decentralised production is not a very essential requisite to affect an equitable distribution of national dividend. Centralised production under State ownership and a good distribution under well-devised economic controls could do the trick. It is no good condemning people to perpetual drudgery and crude methods of production in the name of better distribution. There is no use objecting to State control of production and distribution as no planned economy can be successful without controls. We must realise that planning and controls go together. If control

Cottage Industries In Post-War Reconstruction

By Prof. K. V. Rao, M. A. M. Litt.,

is inevitable in either case it is worth while examining whether small scale industries are conducive to human welfare or large scale production under economic controls.

Whatever it is, it is high time to come out of this confusion and establish once for all the place of small scale industries in our post-war plans and then try to create such conditions and controls conducive to the growth of these cottage industries.

For this we have first to realise that cottage industries have a definite and permanent place in any economy (not only of India, please) and therefore it is time we give up our patronising attitude towards them and take a realistic step to give them their proper place.

Secondly, we have to realise that in India and in the post-war era, they have a special and significant role to play. Our planning is different from others in objectives and hence the policy and organisation should also be different. We want not a great exchange

economy but a production economy. We lay more emphasis on human welfare than on mere economic wealth. We want more total production than individual per capita production of a few. Lastly we want to raise the per capita *minimum income* instead of the per capita which is average. To achieve these objectives, cottage industries are to occupy a more permanent and definite place than we Indians have as yet imagined.

Thirdly, we have to realise that there are many varieties and kinds of cottage industries that do not compete with machinery at all and in the complexity of human wants, it is not difficult to select enough of them that do not enter into competition with machinery.

Fourthly, that even in the case of those cottage industries that compete with machinery, it is not difficult to avoid competition by assigning different processes to different agencies and also different kinds of production, so that it could be

quite possible for machinery and cottage industries to cooperate with each other and thrive side by side.

Fifthly, let us realise once for all, that cottage industries, essential as they are, cannot revive and later on survive by any magic wand. The circumstances and conditions that brought about the ruin of our once prosperous cottage industries are still present even now and they will even come into greater prominence in the post war era, and if we went to have an economy—and we must have—based on cottage industries, we must devise and adopt a number of economic controls congenial to that purpose. It must be noted that planning involves economic controls.

Sixthly, we have to realise the utter impossibility and the entire undesirability of living on an economy based on this crude system of production. While economists and administrators can devise a system of controls to sustain the growth of our balanced economy, scientists and technologists must evolve better methods of production both to increase the per capita production and to remove the

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monotony and human drudgery involved in present day methods.

Seventhly, the State has to realise that it has a positive part to play if our cottage industries are to survive and revive and that there is a lot of preliminary work to be done—economic surveys etc.—before a comprehensive plan of cottage industries is evolved and put into execution. Much valuable time is lost in idle talk and controversy at a time when we have to make haste and take action.

In short the question today is not whether cottage industries are desirable or not, nor whether they could survive in the circumstances of today. We have passed that stage. Cottage Industries must be organised. There is no more doubt about it. The problem before the country is to discover and invent the conditions and means under which cottage industries can thrive. A deliberate policy of protection by various means must be adopted by the State to create those conditions which must be present. At the same time it must be noted that we cannot go back definitely to the stone age. We cannot ignore modern tastes and bypass modern civilisation. The craze for machinery, for good or for bad, has attained such a momentum even in India that it is stupid and impossible to try to stop it. Still, while not very easy, the problem is not impossible to solve and a system of cottage industries could easily be evolved that would take all the special circumstances into consideration. The idea of the present writer is to focus public attention to some of the problems to be faced and solved.

WANTED

Candidates for nomination for the Forest Rangers' Course of 1946-48 at the Indian Forest Range College at Dehra Dun. Preference will be given to candidates who are natives of or domiciled in Bihar. Candidates must be between 18 and 25 years of age on the 1st April 1946 and must have passed at least the Intermediate examination of any recognised Indian University with Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Botany or Zoology as one of the subjects. Application in the prescribed forms to be obtained from the Conservator of Forests, Bihar, and must reach the undersigned on or before the 1st October 1945. For full particulars refer to the advertisement in the Bihar Gazette for 26th September and 3rd October 1945.

R. L. Derry,
Conservator of Forests,
Bihar.

P. O. Hinoo, Ranchi.
The 19th October 1945.

The Muslim Case

By Samaren Roy

The Congress has decided to participate in the coming elections. In 1937, the Congress took part in the elections in order to wreck the Government of India Act (1935). Having failed to do that, and not realising the importance and responsibility of self-government during the critical time of the war, the Congress resigned from office. The situation has not changed materially, except that the war is over; so, why is the Congress going to participate in the coming elections without any intention of fighting the government this time? Presumably, the Congress as also the other political parties feel the responsibility of fighting this election in order to exist politically in future. Because no body doubts the intention of the British government's declaration that they will transfer power to the Indians on the basis of the coming elections. If anybody or the Congress doubted that, there could not be any explanation of their fighting in the coming election in order only to show that they are the major political party, which is held as a foregone conclusion.

The case and stand of the Muslim league is very clear and justified if viewed in this perspective. Everybody admits and feels that the communal tension and the uncompromising attitude of the two major political parties have aggravated to the utmost today when it is also urgently required that they should come to a settlement in the interest of national independence. Both the parties are blaming each other and it is almost beyond any doubt now that they can never come even near to any agreement. But most significantly, neither the Congress nor the Muslim League wants to ignore and bypass the other party and demand independence. Then why does the Congress every time ask and confer with the Muslim League leaders to come to some settlement?

This is because the two parties know that they are getting self-governing power. For the Muslims, if they cannot settle their affairs while a foreign Power is still here, their interests will not be fulfilled in any national

government of India, where there will be a clear Hindu majority who will not care to look after the interests of the Muslims. This fear of Hindu domination has led them to stick to their demand of Pakistan and if Pakistan is acceded, they will give all their support to the Congress in having an independent India. The very idea that the British are really going to transfer power has led the Muslim League to take this course. It is no use saying that Mr. Jinnah is carrying out a command performance under instructions from Whitehall, or that Mr. Gandhi is performing a command performance under Mr. Birla. As late as 1907, Gokhale realised this and so he was of opinion that the communal problem would not disappear with the British rule. Rabindranath also wrote about the same thing in 1911.

So now what is the solution? There cannot be any agreement between the two parties and the British Government would not transfer power unless these two parties agree. Hence, there cannot be any independence for India.

Again, no body can ignore the muslim demand for Pakistan. Pakistan, according to the Muslim League, is necessary for the proper safeguard of the Muslims, otherwise in a Hindu dominated India, they are afraid that their condition might be miserable. The idea of social and economic security is the prime cause and demand underlying Pakistan. Now, evidently, the Congress cannot give proper remedy to that. Because Hindu business interest inside the Congress is quite clear. And so naturally lesser economic power of the Muslims cannot go under the greater economic power. That would mean death for the lesser power.

But, if a constitution of free India can be framed which will guarantee social and economic security to the entre people in the form of an irreducible standard of living for all and guaranteed employment or relief as the specific conditions of it, that will provide adequate and proper security and relief from fear to the Muslims also. This might not be accepted by the big bosses of the Muslim

League, because they are also guided by business interests of the Muslims and their Pakistan means only an area demarcated, where they can carry on business without any competition; but this will certainly be accepted as the fundamental condition for the vast majority of Muslims—the toiling millions and will help in framing a Federal Constitution for India.

There cannot be any intermediate way for the Muslims. They have to demand Pakistan in any national government of India if they want to exist at all. Nationalism does not give them any safeguard or security. The only alternative for them is social democracy which will provide for proper safe-guards and securities for all and so for them also. The Muslims have no other choice and it is high time that they should think and choose their fate in the great struggles that lie ahead.

Acknowledgment

India, Then & Now—C. A. Parkhurst; Macmillan & Co.; Price Re. 1/12.

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Here & There

By Reader

Democratic Argentina

In the San Francisco Conference, M. Molotov objected to the inclusion of Argentina among the United Nations. He was supported only by the representatives of Czechoslovakia and Ukraine; the others were unanimous that Argentina had washed off all taint of Fascism and that it would be monstrous not to include such a lily-white democracy in the conclave of anti-fascist nations.

On Sept. 20, Reuter informed the world that a crowd, estimated at a million people, shouting slogans like A NAZI OF YESTERDAY CANNOT BE A DEMOCRAT OF TODAY, surged through the streets of Buenos Ayres in a monster liberty march organized as a protest against the humiliating dictatorship of Gen. Edelmiro Farrell.

It is rather curious that Farrell is regarded as a Nazi at home while he is ranked high as a democrat abroad. It is still more curious that when millions of Argentinians are against the dictatorship of Farrell, the latter is still able to maintain his rule over a sullen and resentful populace. South American politics have always been a puzzle.

* * *

Argentinian democracy was forced down the unwilling throat of M. Molotov in San Francisco. Since then plenty of evidence has been accumulating of the truly democratic character of the Farrell regime. On September 26 last, 150 leaders of the people were arrested in Argentina, the most notable among them being Dr. Carlos Saavedra Lamas, a former foreign minister and the only Argentinian to win the Nobel Prize (Peace, 1936). Chilian dockers, who know nothing of democracy, have refused to load coal in Argentine ships in Chilian ports. 10,000 Chilian coal-miners have downed tools because they do not want that coal raised by their labour should go to "democratic" Argentina. Without any hint from Reuter we can quite see that the arrested Argentinian leaders, the Nobel Laureate, the Chilian dockers and miners are all communists!

Poor Franco has every reason to be piqued that the San Francisco Conference welcomed Farrell's regime in Argentine as democratic, while Spain was excluded from the United Nations' group.

An Alnaschar Dream Is Not A Party Programme

In a statement (London, Sept. 29), Mr. W. G. Cove, M.P. has said "One of the many charges against the Congress is that it is completely a capitalist organisation financed by rich Indians for the purpose of increased exploitation of the Indian people. Pandit Nehru's plain statement destroys such a charge."

Apparently the reference is to the "verbal panorama of his vision of future India" disclosed by Pandit Nehru to a Press Conference in Bombay on September 27th. We too were at first delighted and thrilled when we saw the blue print unfolded before our eyes in the morning papers of September 28. But on reading carefully for the second time we discovered to our dismay that nowhere had Pandit Nehru said that State ownership of key industries, State control of other industries including the textile industry, abolition of the zamindari system, introduction of large co-operative farms...&c, are in the Congress programme or that the Congress plans to do all these. He merely says: "large scale industrialization is necessary...State control of the textile industry would be necessary...I have come to the conclusion that there must be socialistic planning...It seems to me that there will be socialistic tendency in any programme...I think that the textile industry should be controlled...the abolition of the Zemindari system is necessary...to have co-operative farms all over India is necessary..." He has carefully avoided saying that these are the things that the Congress intends to carry out.

All these are personal visions of Pandit Nehru and have no place in the Congress programme. We would ask Mr. Cove to read Pandit Nehru's statement once more a little more carefully and not jump to conclusions.

A Land Of Contrasts

In this country we are accustomed to the sight of marble palaces and most miserable hovels side by side. While an Indian prince spends many lakhs of rupees in buying race-horses in England, "sick destitutes" continue to die of starvation every day. Bengal is faced with a failure of rice crop but 3,24,000 maunds of rice were sent from the Kidderpore Dock to Ceylon on 21st September (*Jana Juddha*, Sept 27). While the people are suffering from a cloth famine (denied by shameless official liars), there is

so much accumulated stock lying in Calcutta mills that the mill-owners are seriously thinking of stopping production because they lack storage space. Eight of the textile mills in Cawnpur have on hand 16,000 bales of cloth in their godowns, which they say is a huge stock. There are 10 other mills in Cawnpur, how much accumulated stock they have in hand is not known.

These published facts only show how official inefficiency has failed to meet the situation. It would be far better to abolish all cloth rationing and let the mills supply the market in the

normal way. The cloth-controlling officers may be given a 50% increment in their salaries and harmlessly employed in planning for the post-war cotton industry in India.

What The Public Is Saying

The common man in every country is now thoroughly fed up with war-time shortages, restrictions, regulations and controls. But while in every country the administrations are seriously trying to revert quickly to peace-time conditions, in India, the wooden bureaucracy takes things easy. What earthly justification can there be to-day

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CONDITIONS NOW EASIER

With the cessation of hostilities, Government controls on all kinds of tyres have been greatly relaxed. For the benefit of tyre users generally, we give below a summary of the present position.

NEW TYRES You still cannot buy a new cover or tube unless you have a permit but it is no longer necessary to establish "essentiality" in order to obtain a permit. The greatly increased tyre supplies now being released for civil use should enable any vehicle owner who is in need of tyres to obtain them without difficulty.

USED TYRES Covers or tubes which have run more than a thousand miles are now de-controlled and may be bought and sold freely without a permit. Moreover, it is NOT now necessary to surrender your old cover or tube when you buy a new one.

RETREADED TYRES It is no longer necessary to secure a permit in order to buy retreaded tyres or to have your own tyres retreaded.

In brief, except for the formality of obtaining a permit, every motor vehicle owner should now be able to obtain tyres without the slightest difficulty.

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for retaining the Civil Pioneer Force, import trade controls, the New Standard Time, Petrol rationing, permit for sale of motor tyres, the various Civil Defence organizations, A. R. P. and the terribly bloated propaganda department of the Government of India? Before the war, the Government of India spent about 2 lakhs of rupees annually on propaganda, we do not know how many crores have been and are still being spent on this futile pursuit. It is difficult to resist the conclusion that restrictions, regulations, controls, departments...are being continued simply to keep officers in their jobs. Bitter experience has convinced the average man that "control" and "corruption" are synonymous terms. It would be much better to have most controls abolished (a very few may be retained for some time yet) and if it be

thought necessary that the controlling officers should retain their jobs, let them pose as post-war planners. They would be at least harmless in that capacity.

Is the military department still buying 800 million yards of cloth a year? If not, cannot this yardage be diverted to meet civilian needs? Are millions of tons of cement still needed to make new aerodromes? If not, why is not cement made available for sale to the civil population? Are military barracks still being built? If not, why is it impossible for the average man to buy bricks anywhere except in the black market? How much longer would the war be made an excuse to deprive the ordinary man of the necessaries of life? The people have suffered all kinds of hardship silently while the war was on. But they have every right to protest if a complacent administration shows more consideration for retaining its superfluous officers than for the sufferings of the people.



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Letters

To Whom Ever It May Concern

Sir,—I have been paying Income Tax year in and year out for several years past—certainly from 1940 onwards. The Income Tax Department has not excused me.

Whose lookout was it that my name should appear on the Electoral Roll of Patna City Urban General Constituency?

I have ascertained that my name does not appear there. And I am told that I should pay a further tax of twelve annas in order to exercise my franchise. This is bania policy. If not, what is it?— Yours etc.,

B. K. Sen, Advocate,
29-9-45. Patna.

Publicising Electoral Qualifications

A correspondent has asked three questions regarding the coming elections:—

(a) Why did not the Congress ministry try for adult franchise, or at least extend the franchise as was done by the League Ministry in Bengal?

(b) Why has not the publicity department of the Government of Bihar publicised qualifications for voters and other details, if not through any other medium, at least through the different issues of the Debat?

(c) What has the Bihar Mass Literacy Committee done to enrol its lakhs of literates as voters for the coming elections, specially women, whose electoral qualification is only literacy? Have they even made any propaganda through their organ—the Roshni?

Electoral Rolls For Patna

Mr. P. M. Sen writes:— Allow me to bring into public notice the glaring defects and incorrectnesses of the Electoral rolls of the Patna Urban General Constituency, through your esteemed journal. In these electoral rolls about 20,000 names of voters are enlisted, out of which nearly 6,000 names have been deleted by a correction slip.

The revision which was done in 1941-42 seems to have been made only for defranchising 6,000 voters and not for enfranchising any. The correc-

Prabeshika Examination

The Prabeshika Examination conducted by the Prabashi Banga Sahitya Sammelan will be held in November next. The exact dates will be notified later.

The last date of sending applications with fees for appearing at the Examination has been extended to 15th of October 1945.

NOTICE

This election is very important and it is the desire of the Association that every member should get his or her name enrolled in the *Electoral Roll*. The time is very short and this Association has arranged that honorary workers would make all possible effort to reach every individual house to get the members enrolled. But at the same time we appeal to each member to see that his or her application is filed within the prescribed time. The Electoral Roll is with the Secretary at his house on the Exhibition Road (House of Rai Bahadur Mihir Nath Roy) and he will be glad to give information that is necessary. Kindly come over and fill in your forms and pay -/12/- for the stamp paper and the rest will be done by the Association.

The last date of application is 15th October 1945.

Secretary,
Bengalee Association, Patna.

tion slip shows an inclusion of only 13 names. The Revision Officer of 1941-42, therefore, could find only 13 voters to be included in the rolls whereas he deleted about 6,000 voters.

Here is an instance of the principle adopted to defranchise 6,000 voters. A person having requisite qualification (in this case an income tax payer) changed his residential address from the Water Tower quarter to Hardinge Road. The name of the said person appears in the correction slip, i. e., he is defranchised because he was not found in the Water Tower area but his name is not included again in the Hardinge Road list. There are hundreds of such instances.

OCTOBER 2, 1945

This India

By Mallinatha

Tut Tut!

"Bandit Jawaharlal Nehru will undertake a whirlwind election campaign throughout the country"—Local Paper.

Trying to secure votes from everybody is a perfectly moral procedure—and the epithet is wholly undeserved.

Post-war Changes In Arithmetic

"TWO-THIRD OF JAP HOME ARMY DEMOBILIZED

Tokyo, Sept. 20. — General MacArthur announced that three quarters of the Japanese home army has been demobilized"—The Searchlight, Sept. 21.

Blame On Wrong Shoulders

"It is the peoples, and the peoples alone, who can save civilization from destruction"—Mr. Attlee's Trade Union Conference speech.

Are the peoples of any country war-mongers? Do sheep ever decide to make a journey to the slaughter-house?

Similar Problems

"I cannot see why there is talk of security by Russia and all this demand for bases unless it is about territorial gain"—F.M. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, Reuter, Washington, Sept. 21.

We too cannot see why there is talk of security by the U. S. and all this demand for bases in the Pacific and other parts of the world, unless it is about territorial gain.

Arming Against Whom?

"The Chinese Rear-Admiral, Tong Shih-hai, said that if China is given sufficient war vessels by the United Nations she could perform the major task of patrolling Far Eastern Waters"—Reuter, Chungking, Sept. 21.

Japan will not have a single naval vessel left when the Allies have done with her. What then will the Chinese navy patrol against in the Far Eastern waters? Whales?

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WHAT IS ...

From Page 1

the fate that Buddhism met in its own land of birth. Buddhism represented the interests of the growing merchant class whose interests were directly opposed to those of the feudal lords. In the feudal society, human beings were stratified into different classes. There was no mobility or movement of persons from one class to the other. No change of profession was ever conceived of. The son and all the successive generations of a craftsman were bound to live as craftsmen. Birth was the sole determinant factor in the career of a man. The rising merchant class found all these restrictions to be injurious to their growing trade and commerce. They became terribly opposed to the status quo and as such to the static view of things, as they wanted to change their social conditions in order to make them worth living for themselves. In order to abolish the immobility of men from one group to the other they wanted to destroy all caste distinctions. As this class was amassing wealth rapidly so they wanted to abolish all the privileges of the feudal class and to substitute wealth for birth as the criterion for class distinctions. In the philosophy of classless flux or change that Buddha propounded, we find a clear reflection of the mind of this growing trading class. They wanted the philosophy of change in order to give them relief from the static philosophy and they get it at the hands of Buddha. The philosophy of Buddha became very popular among this class but it had to meet the challenge of the orthodox Brahmins. As Buddhism began to be defeated feudalism got itself more entrenched.

These brief illustrations go to show that the study of Philosophy and the different systems of Philosophy can be made useful and significant only when we study them in their social context and the problem 'what is philosophy' can be solved and understood only when we come to know how philosophy arises in a particular social milieu. A study of Philosophy from this point of view will make us realize that philosophy has always been a thing of the earth. However

abstract philosophical speculations may seem, the different systems of philosophy have been just so many ways in which men have reacted to the world of nature and society around them. The Phenomenon of conflicting social attitudes and movements giving rise to conflicting philosophies in the world of today can be understood only when philosophy is treated as a social-historical enterprise. Such an analysis will lead us, as has been illustrated above, to the logical conviction that since all historical societies have been scenes of class struggle, philosophy, whatever else it has been, has always served as the theoretical weapon of opposing classes and

especially of the dominant class at any given time to maintain its privileged position.

Acknowledgment

Debat—V.J. number—Edited by Mr. Viswanath Sahay Varma and published by the Publicity Department of the Government of Bihar. 130 pages—illustrated. A well got up and informative volume.

Annual Report of the Indian Association for 1944—Published by the Secretary, Mr. B. K. Chaudhuri B. L. Advocate, from the office of the Association, 62 Bowbazar Street, Calcutta.

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ADULT SUFFRAGE

The students of the Patna Medical College have passed the following resolution :—

This meeting of the Prince of Wales Medical College Students has considered all the objections raised so far by the Government, questioning the feasibility of Universal Adult Franchise in the coming elections, and is decidedly of the opinion that, given the necessary will and co-operation of the people, which is bound to be abundantly available, fresh rolls on the basis of Universal Adult Franchise can be prepared without entailing any unreasonably long delay in holding the elections.

This meeting, therefore, expresses its profound disappointment at the Government's decision to hold the coming elections on the old restricted franchise, callously disregarding the majority of the Indian people with whose blood and sweat Allied victory has been won. This caricature of democracy looks all the more appalling in the context of Allied professions of having waged this war for Democracy. This meeting, therefore, voices in unison with all freedom-loving people of the country, its demand that the coming elections which appear to have been taken by the Government as the first step towards the solution of India's political problems, be held on the basis of Universal Adult Franchise.

This meeting further intimates the Government that if this irresistible democratic demand is ignored in the coming elections, it will be its patriotic duty to see that the constitution making body is not formed

The Electoral System In The USSR

By K. Sevrikov

As everybody knows, the organs of State power in the USSR are Soviets of Working People's Deputies. The main principles of the system by which they are elected and the main electoral rights are stated in the Constitution of the USSR.

The election of Deputies to all soviets, from the Supreme Soviet of the USSR down to the local soviets, regional, district, city and village soviets, is by universal, equal and direct ballot. Universal and equal suffrage, direct and secret ballot are the electoral rights granted to every citizen and form the basis of the electoral system of the USSR.

Universal suffrage means that every citizen of the USSR, who has reached a certain age, with the exception of the feeble-minded and those deprived of civil rights by a court of justice, have the right to participate in elections.

Article 135 of the Constitution of the USSR reads, "Elections of Deputies are universal; all citizens of the USSR who have reached the age of eighteen, irrespective of race or nationality, religion, educational and residential qualifications, social origin, property status or past activities, have the right to vote in the elections of Deputies and be elected, with the exception of insane persons and persons who have been convicted by a court of law and whose sentences

out of these undemocratically elected legislatures, that every Adult Indian may have his or her voice in the framing of the future Indian constitution, in other words of the destiny of the country.

Also in the above eventuality of the Government ignoring the demand, it will be the duty of any candidate seeking elections to promise to the people that he or she is going with the declared intention of seeing that the constitution-making body is formed by Universal Adult Suffrage and not from the undemocratically elected legislatures.

This meeting welcomes the unequivocal support to the demand of Universal Adult Suffrage extended by the Vice-Chancellor of the Patna University and other eminent persons and appeals to all to join in the demand which is an unquestionably legitimate demand of the entire people, irrespective of any other considerations.

include deprivation of their electoral rights".

The elections of Deputies to the soviets are by equal suffrage, which means that every citizen has a vote at the elections and only one vote, that all citizens take part in the elections on an equal footing, so that it follows that no elector has any advantages over another.

All citizens of the USSR have equal rights, the right to elect and be elected, irrespective of their social position, property, status or employment. Workers, peasants, clerks—all Soviet citizens take part in the elections on an equal footing.

The equality of the electoral rights enjoyed by Soviet citizens is emphasised by the fact that women have the same right to elect and be elected as men. Those serving in the Red Army have the same right to elect and be elected as other citizens of the USSR.

Equality is again expressed in the fact that all constituencies are, according to the Soviet electoral law, equal and no constituency can send a greater number of Deputies to the soviets than another.

Under the heading "Direct election" in the USSR we understand the arrangement under which Deputies are elected by the electors themselves. There are no intermediate links between the electors and the elected in the USSR; there are, for example, no election agents or other intermediaries. In any town or village, even at the most remote point, the elector casts his vote direct for a Deputy to any of the Soviets, including the Supreme Soviet. Every elector, living in a given constituency, himself casts his vote directly for one of the candidates on the list. Such a system permits a free and independent expression of the will of the electors.

Elections in the USSR are carried out by constituencies established on a territorial basis. For example, for elections to the Soviet of the Union, (the Supreme Soviet of the USSR consists of two equal chambers: the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities) the whole territory of the USSR is divided into equal constituencies, each of which contains 300,000 people.

For greater convenience in collecting and examining ballot papers each constituency is divided into wards.

Elections in each constituency are conducted by election commissions confirmed by the Soviets responsible. The election commissions ensure that the election laws are observed and they examine all complaints made by electors regarding anything found incorrect. They register candidates for the election to soviets, count votes; cast and publish the result of the election and issue the elected Deputies with their mandates.

The results of the elections are determined by counting the votes cast for each candidate throughout the constituency. A candidate is considered elected who has an absolute majority of the votes, that is more than 50 p. c. of the total votes cast in a constituency.

According to the election laws of the Soviet Union, any public body or association of working people may put forward candidates. Article 141 of the Constitution reads, "Candidates for the election are nominated by sending to electoral areas (constituencies). The right to nominate candidates is secured to public organisations and societies of the working people, the Communist Party, organisations of the Trade Unions, co-operatives, youth organisations and cultural societies".

Any public organisation whose activity is in the interests of the people has the right to nominate its candidates for elections to the soviets. These organisations put forward candidates at the general meetings or make use of this right through their leading bodies.

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